

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY / MIDDLE EAST UPDATE
July 8 - 15, 2010

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1. [U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue Shows Progress in Many Sectors](#) (07-14-2010)
Pakistan meetings helping advance the U.S.-Pakistan partnership

By Carrie Loewenthal Massey
Special Correspondent

New York — U.S. and Pakistan officials strengthened plans for Pakistan's development during a series of working groups held in Islamabad throughout June and July, building on partnerships established under the U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue.

Numerous strategic dialogue groups met to discuss such topics as water management, health, agriculture, education, economics and finance, access to markets, energy, science and technology, communications, women's issues, law enforcement and defense.

The Pakistan sessions incorporate field experts and U.S. and Pakistani policymakers in each sector. Approaching the issues separately, in concentrated discussions, has allowed leaders to identify projects in key areas and create "a road map for making consistent progress," [said Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton](#), speaking at March meetings of the [U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue](#).

Clinton and Pakistani Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi introduced the [first ministerial-level discussions](#) of the Strategic Dialogue in Washington in March. As a way to

[demonstrate the commitment of the U.S.-Pakistan partnership](#), the Strategic Dialogue includes a policy steering group and 13 topical working groups.

“Our success will be determined not by how often we gather in government summits, but in how well our partnership translates into lasting progress for the millions who live in cities and villages far from the halls of power and whose lives will be shaped by our actions,” Clinton said. “Bettering the lives of people must remain the motivation for everything we do.”

Qureshi requested that the working groups meet in Pakistan to continue the joint U.S.-Pakistan efforts. Clinton said she hopes the dialogue will “expand and endure,” leading to more and more collaborative accomplishments and strengthened relations between the two countries.

According to U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke, the Islamabad meetings have brought those ideas closer to fruition and have demonstrated a strong commitment to the dialogue’s objectives.

“In all of these meetings, we are discussing real policy issues and how to work together to advance our common agenda,” he said in Islamabad June 19. “This is [real progress across the board](#).”

PARTNERING ON WATER, ENERGY, SCIENCE

One of the key areas of collaboration is water management, which was discussed at one of the working groups in June. U.S. and Pakistani officials worked to develop a list of [mutually agreed upon priorities](#) to tackle the significant water-scarcity threat Pakistan faces. Areas of concern include irrigation systems, safe drinking water and sanitation, conservation and developing a sustainable infrastructure for managing the country’s water supply, according to a joint U.S.-Pakistan press statement.

“This was the first time we have discussed water issues with Pakistan in such detail,” Holbrooke said in June.

The United States will support Pakistan in creating a water regulatory authority to help manage the many components of water security and the demands of the country’s different regions, many of which were represented on the working group. In fall 2010, the U.S. plans to host Pakistani water experts from the federal and provincial governments for meetings with American water specialists, “to study how the U.S. deals with our own serious federal-versus-state water issues — an issue that has been at the center of American history for over 150 years,” Holbrooke said.

With the first phase of the U.S. energy program Clinton announced in Pakistan in October 2009 under way, the United States and Pakistan are working to rehabilitate power facilities, improve tube well pump efficiency and enhance energy companies’ distribution performance, according to the Strategic Dialogue energy working group.

State Department official Kerri-Ann Jones, center, visits an exhibit of projects in Islamabad funded through a U.S.-Pakistan agreement. The group is considering more short- and medium-term solutions to remaining energy shortages, as well as long-term measures such as increasing private-sector investment in energy, the group said.

A science and technology working group is exploring ways to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in Pakistan as another area of cooperation.

WORKING TOWARD AN IMPROVED ECONOMY

Several of the Strategic Dialogue groups focused on [economic issues](#), concentrating on agriculture, economics and finance and access to markets. The group on agriculture, meeting for the third time, agreed to focus on improving wheat and cotton productivity, combating animal and plant diseases, developing Pakistan's dairy sector and increasing market access in the United States for Pakistani products like mangoes.

Increasing market access includes efforts to advance legislation to create Reconstruction Opportunity Zones, under which the United States would grant duty-free market access to goods produced in designated conflict areas of Pakistan to improve the livelihoods of people living in those regions. U.S. support for mutually agreed Pakistani priorities of energy security, food security and human development was an important conclusion of the economic and finance group.

Holbrooke spoke of using trade shows, such as New York-based textile and apparel shows in July, to further the business dialogue. "We want to give the U.S. business community a chance to learn that Pakistan is open for business, and we want to help you showcase the quality of your great Pakistani products," he said.

FOCUSING ON WOMEN, HEALTH, EDUCATION

Health projects are an important element of the long-term U.S.-Pakistan partnership, as the Strategic Dialogue [working group on health](#) focused on Pakistan's National Health Policy, improving provincial health care systems and expanding immunization campaigns, particularly for polio and hepatitis.

A group on women's empowerment, conducting the first official U.S.-Pakistan dialogue on women's development and empowerment, focused on such issues as exploring economic opportunities for women by creating technical training programs on entrepreneurship and microfinance, addressing violence against women, making key judicial and law enforcement agencies more aware of gender issues, and empowering women politically, with training programs for female local leaders.

Ensuring that all Pakistanis have access to quality education, particularly girls, was the focus of the education working group. The group also explored support for technical and higher education, creating centers of excellence at Pakistani universities and deepening U.S.-Pakistani exchanges such as the Fulbright Program. Pakistan has the largest Fulbright Program in the world, now in its 60th year in the country.

COOPERATING ON DEFENSE, LAW ENFORCEMENT

Two working groups continue to explore ways to increase cooperation on defense and on law enforcement to combat terrorism, with the [defense working group](#) meeting in Rawalpindi in June and the [law enforcement and counterterrorism group](#) meeting in Islamabad in July.

The defense working group, also called an exchange on defense planning, focused on the challenges faced by both Pakistan and the United States in their multiyear cooperation, and worked on areas of future cooperation on security issues. The law enforcement group explored counterterrorism legislation, strengthening judicial and law enforcement capabilities and improving border controls to help trade move more effectively but block contraband and terrorists' travel.

Both groups issued statements with U.S. officials acknowledging and recognizing the sacrifices and courage of Pakistan's agencies and people in combating terrorism, while Pakistani officials expressed appreciation for U.S. support and assistance on counterterrorism.

The Strategic Dialogue groups will continue to meet in the coming months, as both the United States and Pakistan pledge a deepening commitment to their long-term partnership.

As Clinton said in March, "Pakistan's stability and prosperity is in the best interests of people everywhere. Its struggles are our struggles. Its future and ours are entwined. And its people and our people share many of the same dreams, dreams we are more likely to achieve working together."

2. U.S. and Afghanistan Share Robust Commitment (07-14-2010)

The United States and Afghanistan are committed to deepening and building a strategic partnership that addresses security, stabilization and development for a safer, more prosperous Afghanistan. Read more about President Obama's strategy for Afghanistan, U.S.-Afghan relations, partnerships on security and development, and important exchanges by U.S. and Afghan officials.

President Obama's Strategy for Afghanistan, Pakistan

President Obama on the Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan
Fact Sheet on Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan
Translations of President Obama's Speech on Afghanistan, Pakistan
White Paper on U.S. Policy Toward Afghanistan and Pakistan
Obama on a New Strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan

U.S.-Afghanistan Relations

Reintegration of Former Taliban a Key to Success in Afghanistan
General Petraeus Testifies on Afghanistan Strategy
General Petraeus Picked to Head Military Efforts in Afghanistan
Report on U.S. Counternarcotics Strategy for Afghanistan
Intense Diplomacy to Strengthen U.S.-Afghan Ties
U.S.-Afghanistan Agreement to Provide Basic Government Services
U.S., Other Creditors Cancel Afghanistan Debts Owed to Paris Club
Pakistan, Afghanistan Struggle to Protect Human Rights, U.S. Says
U.S. Strategy Expands Tuberculosis Treatment, Control
Water Defines Our Blue Planet, Clinton Says
Pentagon: Operations Under Way Against Taliban in Kandahar
Pentagon Gets Ready for Kandahar
Clinton, Gates Cautiously Optimistic About Marjah
Pentagon Welcomes Restored Afghan Control of Marjah
Afghan Operation Emphasizes Prevention of Civilian Casualties
Afghan Civilian Interests Central to Operation Moshtarak
Capture of Taliban Leader "A Significant Win," White House Says
NATO Allies to Send 7,000 More Troops to Afghanistan
Troop Surge Will Allow Afghans to Assume Security Responsibility
Afghan Legal Defense Experts to Visit United States
Afghan Agriculture and Security Interrelated, U.S. Officials Say
U.S. to Have Strong Civilian Presence in Afghanistan, Pakistan
Afghan Poll Shows Increasing Optimism, Opposition to Taliban

Clinton on Afghanistan, Pakistan Regional Stabilization Strategy
Afghanistan and Pakistan Regional Stabilization Strategy
Civilians to Expand U.S. Commitments to Afghanistan and Pakistan
Restoring Security in Afghanistan and Pakistan Is the U.S. Goal
Obama Lauds Afghan President's Participation in Runoff Vote
"Unprecedented Cooperation" in Pakistan, Afghanistan Talks
Obama Seeks Close Coordination with Afghan, Pakistani Leaders
Stability in Pakistan Is Central to U.S. Efforts in Afghanistan
Obama Orders First New Troops to Afghanistan
Top U.S. Commander Considers Road Ahead in Afghanistan
Hillary Clinton Seeks to Renew U.S. Leadership Through Diplomacy
Obama Aims to Partner with South Asia on Critical Issues

U.S.-Afghanistan Partnerships for Development, Stabilization

Water Resources Seen as Key to Afghanistan's Growth, Development
Cuban Family Helped by Afghan-American Outreach Worker
Entrepreneurs Share Aspirations, Experiences at Obama Summit
President Obama's Remarks at Summit on Entrepreneurship
Learn More About Entrepreneurship
U.S., Afghanistan Partner to Improve Local Governance, Services
From Carpet Weaving to Running a Business in Afghanistan
U.S. Helps Make Rare Afghan Documents Available Online
Preserving World Cultures: South & Central Asia
Restoring a Citadel: The Qala Ikhtyaruddin in Herat, Afghanistan
U.S. Sponsors First Afghan Youth Congress Against Drugs in Kabul
Exhibit Celebrates Listener Letters to Afghanistan's Radio Azadi
U.S. Agriculture Secretary Announces \$20 Million for Afghanistan
Agriculture Is Top U.S. Nonsecurity Focus in Afghanistan
U.S., South Central Asia Combat Polio Through Partnerships
Transcript: Mortenson on Schools in Afghanistan, Pakistan
U.S., Afghan Engineers Join Together to Build Roads
Corruption Undermines Trust, Erodes Development
Fighting Corruption Depends on Political Will, Institutions
U.S. Announces \$27.5 Million for Pakistan, Afghanistan Food Aid
Gates Foundation Awards Additional \$255 Million to Combat Polio
NATO Allies Share Vital Interest in Stabilizing Afghanistan
Analysis: Afghanistan Needs the World's Help

Addressing Women's Rights in Afghanistan

Writing Project Helping Afghan Women Find Their Voices
Clinton: Returning Taliban Must Respect Afghan Women's Rights
Secretary Clinton and Afghan Women Ministers Before Their Meeting
Women Entrepreneurs Can Ignite Social Change
First Afghan Women Diplomats Train in Washington
Women of Courage
Shukria Asil of Afghanistan
Colonel Shafiq Quraishi of Afghanistan
Women Key to More Prosperous Afghanistan
U.S. Plan Would Help Afghan Women Build Better Lives
Statement on Advancing Rights of Women, Girls in Afghanistan
Investing in Women the Right Thing to Do, Clinton Says

Support for Ministry of Women's Affairs in Afghanistan
United States, South Asia Groups Empower Women to Fight Violence
In Building Schools for Girls, Mountaineer Honors Sister's Memory
Ambassador Urges Robust Afghan Debate on Women's Issues

President Obama Reaches Out to Muslims
Partnerships with Muslim Communities Continue Expanding
A Year Later, Muslims Hail Obama's Cairo Pledge of Cooperation
Obama Calls for a New Beginning with Muslims Around the World
President Obama's Remarks at Cairo University, Egypt
A New Beginning: Engaging With Muslims Worldwide

President Karzai's Visit to the U.S. in May 2010

Obama Offers Support for Afghan Peace Jirga
Clinton Pledges Long-Term U.S. Commitment to Afghanistan
Clinton, Afghan President Karzai at U.S. Institute of Peace
Joint Statement by President Obama, Afghan President Karzai
Remarks by President Obama and Afghan President Karzai
Clinton's Remarks at Reception in Honor of Afghan President
Comments by Secretary Clinton and Afghan President Karzai
Remarks by Clinton, Afghan President Karzai Before Their Meeting
Ambassador Expects Improved U.S.-Afghan Alignment After Talks
Karzai Visit to Washington Comes at Important Time, U.S. Says
Ambassador Holbrooke on Issues in Afghanistan and Pakistan

President Obama's Visit to Afghanistan, March 2010

Obama Makes Surprise Visit to Afghanistan to Honor Troops
Remarks by President Obama to Troops in Afghanistan
Remarks by President Obama, Afghan President Karzai

London Conference on Afghanistan, January 2010

Statement on Outcomes of London Conference on Afghanistan
Amb. Holbrooke on January 28 London Conference on Afghanistan
Secretary Clinton at the International Conference on Afghanistan
United States Supports Fund to Reintegrate Some Afghan Taliban
London Conference to Discuss Rehabilitation of Taliban Fighters

Secretary's 2009 Travel to Afghanistan

Clinton: Afghans Face Critical Moment With Karzai's Second Term
Clinton's Address to U.S., International Troops in Afghanistan
Clinton's Remarks at the Meet and Greet with Employees in Kabul

Speeches, Remarks and Texts of Note

Statement by President Obama on Confirmation of General Petraeus
U.S. Embassy Statement on Consultative Peace Jirga in Afghanistan
Briefing on U.S. Agriculture Programs in Afghanistan
Ambassador Rice at UN Security Council Debate on Afghanistan
President Obama on General McChrystal's Resignation
U.S. Officials Brief on Recent Trips to Afghanistan and Pakistan
Treasury Official on Terrorist Finance in Afghanistan, Pakistan

3. Obama Expresses Support for Palestinian President's Leadership (07-13-2010)

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama recently spoke with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas about progress in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian indirect or “proximity” talks that are designed to lead to negotiations for a peace agreement and Palestinian statehood, the White House said.

Obama and “President Abbas reviewed ways to advance to direct talks in the near term, in order to reach an agreement that ends the conflict and establishes an independent and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel,” a [July 9 White House statement](#) said.

“The president noted that Special Envoy George Mitchell would travel to the region soon and meet with President Abbas to build on this momentum to advance our common goals,” the White House added.

Obama’s telephone conference with Abbas comes after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [traveled to Washington July 6](#) for talks at the White House. Obama’s discussions with the Israeli leader focused on moving the Israelis and Palestinians toward direct talks to advance the peace process.

The White House said the president, in his phone conversation with Abbas, expressed strong support for Abbas’ leadership on behalf of the Palestinian people and his commitment to peace. Obama also cited the positive momentum generated by recent improvements in Gaza and in the West Bank, and “the restraint shown by both sides in recent months,” the White House said.

For the past few weeks, both sides have been engaged in indirect talks facilitated by Mitchell, the U.S. special envoy for Middle East peace. The president spoke with Abbas previously during his [June 9 visit to the White House](#), and since then there have been two additional rounds of proximity talks through Mitchell, White House officials said.

Mitchell met with Netanyahu in Jerusalem June 30 after visiting the Kerem Shalom crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip. On June 20, Israel announced it was relaxing some of its restrictions on materials it would allow into Gaza, a [move that was welcomed by Obama and others](#) in the international community.

During the meeting with the Israeli leader July 6, the president urged Israel, the Palestinians and neighboring Arab states to undertake confidence-building measures to improve the climate for peace in the region. Obama said he believes Netanyahu is willing to take risks for a peace settlement.

Obama said there are measures available to all sides that would improve the prospect of successful peace negotiations and that he had discussed them with both Netanyahu and Abbas.

“There are going to need to be a whole set of confidence-building measures to make sure that people are serious and that we’re sending a signal to the region that this isn’t just more talk and more process without action,” Obama said.

The president said continued progress to build confidence among the Palestinians would help them “see in very concrete terms what peace can bring that rhetoric and violence cannot bring.”

4. Reintegration of Former Taliban a Key to Success in Afghanistan (07-13-2010)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke says the launch of the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Program designed to persuade Taliban fighters to give up their arms and return to their communities reflects the Obama administration’s view that there is no purely military solution to the continuing conflict in Afghanistan.

Speaking at the State Department July 13, Holbrooke said the program is “a key ingredient of a successful campaign in Afghanistan,” and that it is now “assembled and ready to go.”

Holbrooke will join Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in Kabul July 20 for an international conference on Afghanistan, where he said the program to reintegrate Taliban fighters will be discussed.

At a July 1 news briefing in Kabul, British Army Major General Philip Jones, director of the International Security Assistance Force for Afghanistan’s (ISAF’s) Force Reintegration Cell, said ISAF has been working with Afghan President Hamid Karzai’s reintegration adviser, Minister Mohammad Masoom Stanakzai, since January to build the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Program.

“We have built a program across multiple ministries and focused at the district level and below. This program looks at villages and individuals and will create coherence and restore the dialogue between individuals and their communities and between communities and their districts,” Jones said. “This program seeks to initiate grievance resolution, help resolve grievances and to maintain the dignity and honor of everyone involved in the process.”

President Karzai signed a presidential decree in late June establishing the program, which reportedly will seek to persuade up to 36,000 insurgent fighters to lay down their arms by 2015. Jones said the launch of the program “is really excellent news” and that it has a promising future.

“There continue to be small pockets of reintegration occurring around the country and a few larger groups are starting to express interest in it as well. People realize that this program is a benefit to entire communities, not just individuals,” Jones said. “It is not a ‘guns-for-peace’ program, but a way for former fighters to lead peaceful and productive lives for their own benefit as well as for the benefit of their communities.”

Ambassador Holbrooke said that in conflicts such as the insurgency in Afghanistan “there’s always a window for people who want to come in from the cold.”

“This is not a war between two foreign nations; it’s a war between people who are Afghans, some of whom may live next door and take sanctuary next door, but they are Afghans. If they are willing to accept the red lines and come in from the cold, there has to be a place for them,” he said.

U.S. officials have said returning Taliban fighters would need to lay down their arms, renounce extremist groups, including al-Qaida, and accept the Afghan Constitution. Holbrooke said the Obama administration had recognized the need for a reintegration program when it took office, but that it was impossible to pursue it in 2009 while Afghanistan was consumed with its presidential election.

In support of the reintegration program, Holbrooke said Japan and the United Kingdom so far have raised about \$180 million from international donors. He added that the U.S. Congress has allowed the U.S. Defense Department to reserve \$100 million in Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) funds for the reintegration effort.

The ambassador repeated U.S. support for Afghan-led reconciliation efforts with senior Taliban leaders, but said any such discussions do not involve the United States. "We are not in direct contact with the Taliban," he said.

Asked about efforts at the United Nations to remove certain Taliban leaders from being subject to international sanctions enacted by U.N. Security Council Resolution 1267, Holbrooke said that while the United States "will not support a blanket ending of this list," it has agreed to join other Security Council members in reviewing the names on a case-by-case basis, and he said, "We want to scrub the list down."

He said that while some of the individuals continue to be dangerous threats to the United States and its allies, some of those on the list have died since the resolution originally passed in 1999, while others have reconciled with the Karzai government and even participated in Afghanistan's political processes.

5. U.S. Condemns "Cowardly" Bomb Attacks in Uganda (07-12-2010)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and other Obama administration officials strongly condemned terror attacks in Uganda July 11 that targeted spectators who had gathered in Kampala at a restaurant and a rugby sports center to watch the final game of the World Cup, hosted by South Africa.

In a July 12 statement, Clinton offered condolences to family and friends of the victims and expressed support for Ugandan authorities.

"At this tragic moment, the United States stands with Uganda. We have a long-standing, close friendship with the people and government of Uganda and will work with them to bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice," [Clinton said](#).

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said July 12 that the United States has no reason to doubt the Somali terror group al-Shabaab's claim of responsibility for the attacks.

"Unfortunately, we see this contrast between the vision and the hope that South Africa inspired ... through this past weeks and how that contrasts with the cowardice and destruction espoused by al-Shabaab, which used the celebration of the World Cup in Kampala to commit cold-blooded murder of innocent civilians," Crowley said.

According to press reports, the three bombs killed at least 74 people. Crowley said that one American was killed and five others were hospitalized.

In March 2008, the State Department designated al-Shabaab, a Somalia-based extremist group with known ties to al-Qaida, as a foreign terrorist organization. Crowley said the group had threatened Uganda because of its participation in the African Union's peacekeeping mission in Somalia.

Uganda's president, Yoweri Museveni, visited the rugby center and said through reporters July 12 in Kampala: "If you want to fight, why don't you attack soldiers or military installations instead of fighting innocent people watching football?"

President Obama and other U.S. officials have spoken with Museveni in the aftermath of the attacks. Crowley said the Ugandan leader remains committed to his country's participation in the Somali peacekeeping mission. "If this was somehow aimed at punishing or weakening Uganda's resolve, we think that this has backfired," Crowley said.

Crowley said "the strongest retort to al-Shabaab" is that "we are going to continue to support those who want to responsibly govern in Somalia, and we'll resist those who have a narrow, brutal ... violent vision of the future in that country."

The United States "stands shoulder to shoulder with Uganda in the fight against terrorism," Crowley said, both in Somalia and in Uganda's efforts against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

He said President Obama has sent a three-person team from the FBI to Kampala to help authorities collect evidence, and they are being joined July 12 by two members of the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security.

"We have an additional FBI team standing by in the United States, ready to assist if needed. But we will continue to do everything in our power to assist Uganda in bringing the perpetrators of these attacks to justice," Crowley said.

The American who was killed was identified by his employer, the charity Invisible Children, as Nate Henn, a native of Raleigh, North Carolina. Invisible Children works with Ugandan children who have been abducted by rebel groups like the LRA and forced to become child soldiers or into sex slavery.

The organization's website paid tribute to Henn's dedication to Uganda's children in a July 11 blog post.

"From traveling the United States without pay advocating for the freedom of abducted child soldiers in Joseph Kony's war, to raising thousands of dollars to put war-affected Ugandan students in school, Nate lived a life that demanded explanation," Invisible Children said.

"He was not serving some idea of downtrodden Africa. He was serving Innocent, Tony, Boni, Ronald, Papito, Sunday and Lilian. These are some of our Ugandan students who fell in love with Nate's wit, strength, character and steadfast friendship. They gave him the Acholi name Oteka, which means 'The Strong One.' Some of them were with him at the time of the attack," the blog post says.

6. President Obama on 15th Anniversary of Genocide at Srebrenica (07-11-2010)

Obama says Srebrenica serves as reminder for world to act to end genocide

Statement by the President on the 15th anniversary of the genocide at Srebrenica

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the genocide at Srebrenica, and on behalf of the United States, I join my voice with those who are gathered to mourn a great loss and to reflect on an unimaginable tragedy.

Fifteen years ago today, despite decades of pledges of “never again,” 8,000 men and boys were murdered in these fields and hills. They were brothers, sons, husbands, and fathers, and they all became victims of genocide. I have said, and I believe, that the horror of Srebrenica was a stain on our collective conscience. We honor their memories and grieve with their families, as many of them are laid to rest here today. They were people who sought to live in peace and had relied on the promise of international protection, but in their hour of greatest need, they were left to fend for themselves. Only those of you who suffered through those days, who lost loved ones, can comprehend the unspeakable horror. You have carried this burden and live with pain and loss every moment of your lives.

This atrocity galvanized the international community to act to end the slaughter of civilians, and the name Srebrenica has since served as a stark reminder of the need for the world to respond resolutely in the face of evil. For fifteen years, the United States has joined with you to foster peace and reconciliation in this troubled land. We recognize that there can be no lasting peace without justice, and we know that we will all be judged by the efforts we make in pursuit of justice for Srebrenica’s victims and those who mourn them. Justice must include a full accounting of the crimes that occurred, full identification and return of all those who were lost, and prosecution and punishment of those who carried out the genocide. This includes Ratko Mladic, who presided over the killings and remains at large. The United States calls on all governments to redouble their efforts to find those responsible, to arrest them, and to bring them to justice. In so doing, we will honor Srebrenica’s victims and fulfill our moral and legal commitments to end impunity for crimes of such awful magnitude.

We have a sacred duty to remember the cruelty that occurred here, and to prevent such atrocities from happening again. We have an obligation to victims and to their surviving family members. And we have a responsibility to future generations all over the globe to agree that we must refuse to be bystanders to evil; whenever and wherever it occurs, we must be prepared to stand up for human dignity.

May God bless you all, and may God bless the memory of all those who rest here.

[Secretary Clinton on 15th Anniversary of Genocide at Srebrenica](#)

7. Russian Spy Case Resolved Though Prisoner Exchange (07-09-2010)

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — Vienna’s international airport was the scene July 9 of the largest prisoner exchange between Russia and the United States since the end of the Cold War, and U.S. officials say the handling of the case involving 10 Russian sleeper agents who were arrested in late June reflects

progress in the U.S.-Russian relationship as well as an important success for U.S. law enforcement and intelligence personnel.

Senior Obama administration officials told reporters July 8 that the 10 Russian agents had pleaded guilty earlier in the day to conspiring to act as agents of the Russian Federation without notifying U.S. authorities. Those who had been living in the United States under false names were required to disclose their true Russian identities and forfeit some of their U.S. assets, and the 10 agreed never to return to the United States without authorization from the U.S. attorney general.

The U.S. Department of Justice said Russian agents “Richard Murphy” and “Cynthia Murphy” admitted their real names are Vladimir Guryev and Lydia Guryev, “Michael Zottoli” and “Patrica Mills” said their real names are Mikhail Kutsik and Natalia Pereverzeva, “Donald Howard Heathfield” and “Tracey Lee Ann Foley” acknowledged they are really Andrey Bezrukov and Elena Vavilova, and “Juan Lazaro” said his real name is Mikhail Anatonoljevich Vasenkov.

Three other defendants, Vicky Pelaez, Anna Chapman and Mikhail Semenko, were operating under their true names. Only Pelaez was not a Russian citizen.

In return for the expulsion of the 10 individuals, Russia released four individuals who were in prison after being convicted of spying for Western countries.

The arrangement “was based on national security as well as humanitarian grounds,” a senior official said. “After many years of monitoring the Russian individuals, we were confident that we’d gain no significant national security benefit from their further incarceration. Instead, we took the opportunity to secure the release of the four Russian individuals, several of whom are in poor health.”

The official said that “in many respects, the handling of this case and its aftermath reflects the progress that we’ve made in U.S.-Russian relations.” Although the Russian foreign ministry initially denied the charges against the individuals, “the Russian government moved very quickly to resolve the spy scandal, including by immediately acknowledging the Russian citizenship of the individuals involved.”

The United States continues to pursue a “full agenda” with Russia, as indicated [by President Obama’s June summit with President Dmitry Medvedev](#), and the official expressed confidence that the Obama administration’s new approach to Russia “will continue to advance our strategic interests.”

“No one should be surprised that some vestiges of the past remain or that Russia has an active intelligence service. But the rolling up of this network ... is a significant success for the U.S. law enforcement and intelligence community, and we’re pleased that its aftermath has been handled quickly and pragmatically,” the official said.

A second official said that having the agents stripped of their ability to operate in the United States and the shutdown of a spy program that had been running for many years was an important achievement for U.S. national security. “I think, for the future, we have demonstrated our very strong counterintelligence capabilities, and that ought to serve as a warning to any other governments that might try to undertake a similar kind of operation in the future.”

The official said the children of the Russian agents could leave the United States at any time, depending on the wishes of their parents and any applicable requirements of U.S. law, and said their residency is “a matter between the parents and the children.”

The prisoner exchange occurred in Vienna July 9, with two planes arriving within minutes of each other and parking in a remote section of the Schwechat Airport tarmac.

The arrangement “is something we sorted out together,” the official said, adding “we’ve had some experience in doing this in the past.”

The spy case and the prisoner exchange brought back memories of the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union, when thousands of convicted or accused agents on both sides were traded or repatriated. Many such exchanges occurred at the Glienicke Bridge that divided the former East and West Germany.

Among the more famous spy swaps was the U.S. pilot Francis Gary Powers, whose U-2 spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960. Powers was traded in 1962 for Rudolf Abel, who had been posing as a photographer in Brooklyn and passing messages to his Soviet handlers through a hollow coin.

Soviet Jewish dissident and future Israeli politician Natan Sharansky was traded in 1986 for several Soviet spies including Karl Koecher, who was the only Soviet mole known to have penetrated the CIA. The same year, American journalist Nicholas Daniloff was traded for Gennady Zakharov, a Soviet official at the United Nations who had been arrested in New York after receiving classified military documents.
